

SNAKE, SURE ENOUGH.

A Lively Time on the Night Express.

On the night express south on the St. Mary's road the other day a man who had the appearance of an amateur naturalist, was a passenger in the smoker. He got on at a back country station carrying a heavy box which he deposited on the seat beside him and promptly fell asleep.

Among the other passengers were two New York drummers, who relieved the tedium of the night by frequent tips from a black bottle. One of the two soon fell asleep, but the other, who evidently possessed a more formidable capacity for stimulants, clung to the bottle till his wandering gaze attested his condition. Just as the train passed Avon the drummer who was awake suddenly emitted a howl and grasped his companion by the shoulder.

"Great heavens, Charley, did you see that?" he asked in terror, as he crept up on the car seat with both feet.

"Ugh," remarked Charley, nonchalantly, half opening his eyes.

"Wake up," the other went on terrifiedly. "There's a snake under the seat. I think it is a snake, anyhow, and I want you to tell me whether it is or not."

"I'll wish snake," said Charley, with one eye entirely open. "You got 'em, Luke. Told you what'd happen if you didn't quit."

"Don't kid me, Charley," said Luke, imploringly. "Wake up and see him for yourself."

But Charley by this time felt a yielding substance passing over his shoes, and with a wail of terror he rose to the occasion and joined Luke on the top of the car seat. Arroused by the noise, the other passengers rubbed their sleepy eyes and, once awake, began making jests at the expense of the terror-stricken drummers.

"I thought them fellows would be seeing things a long time," remarked a farmer. "Snakes is so common," put in another. "Why don't you spring a crocodile or two on us?"

"Well, I never saw a man with the runs before," a third began, but just then he felt something crawling over his feet, and with a shriek of fear, he crept up on the window sill.

One by one the other passengers joined in the minority on the car seats till at length a vote on the snake question would have resulted unanimously in the affirmative. The sleepy brakeman, who was dozing near the stove, finally awoke, and, catching a glimpse of a dark object wiggling across the aisle carpet, he opened the door with a whoop and disappeared.

The brakeman told the conductor that a snake was loose in the forward car and that official went to the car door demanding:

"What's the matter in there? You are spoiling them seats. Get down."

"There's a snake loose in here," came back the unanimous response. "Come in and catch him. That's what you get your salary for."

"Catch your own snakes," he retorted angrily at the wild-eyed drummers. "I ain't in the snake collecting business."

Despairing of succor from this source, the passengers turned their attention to their own number. By this time there was but one person in the car who was not up on his seat, and that was the man with the box, who still slept peacefully in his corner. All sorts of devices were tried to wake him up. Hats, news papers, and books were tossed at him, and finally a well directed umbrella hit him in the eye and made him jump to his feet with an oath.

"Great blazes," he roared, as he rubbed his injured eye, and caught a glimpse of the passengers standing in their seats. "Is this a branch office of a lunatic asylum, or simply a gang of drunken fools?"

"Get up on your seat," he was adjured. "There's a snake loose in the car."

"Snake loose," he exclaimed. "Guess it's my Jim. Rattler is he? About five feet long? Yes, that's him. Had him in the box, you know, but he must have crawled out while I was asleep."

"You're an infernal idiot," shouted the farmer. "I'll have the law on you."

"Throw him out."

"Put him off."

"Squash the old tame snake."

"The man who owned the box silenced the outcries with a wave of the hand.

"Gentlemen," he remarked, "I'm sorry this isn't a tame snake, but as a matter of fact, he still has his eye teeth, and you'll find him ready for business. Better stay up on your seats till I find him."

Slowly and methodically he prodded under the seats till a warning rattle located the frolicsome Jim. Then, reaching recklessly under the seat, he grasped and hauled out a five-foot rattler, which he lugged back to the box in the corner. After securely clamping the box, he sat down again and quickly fell into a doze. One by one the passengers came down from the car seats, but few could sleep while the threatening box was in the car. When Springfield was reached the man with the box woke up and started for the door.

"Sorry my Jim disturbed you, gentlemen," he called back from the platform. "Fact is, I forgot to say he is only a toy snake, made up largely of spring and India rubber. One simply winds the spring and he will crawl around till he's run down. If I had time I'd explain this ingenious device which I have just patented. But I get off here. Au revoir."

After that the silence was not broken until the train reached Marlin.—[New York Sun.]

THE TOWNS AROUND.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Beginning next week THE CALEDONIAN will be published hereafter on Wednesday morning. Correspondents are invited to send their news in Mondays whenever possible and Tuesdays at the latest. We cannot guarantee the publication of any news received after Tuesday night.

BARNET.

The Christian Endeavor room in the church is at last finished and the first meeting held was the largest Christian Endeavor meeting ever held here. Five meetings were held in the new room the first week.

Rev. D. M. McKinley of Barnet Centre preached a very good sermon last Sunday in exchange with Rev. Joseph Boardman.

The business committee of the church elected at the last meeting, is Scott M. Farnum, James A. Morgan and John S. T. Wallace instead of the names given a week or two ago.

The town meeting last Tuesday was the most largely attended and most interesting meeting held for years. Besides the usual business, election of A. D. Mason, C. A. Choate and Ed. Fulford as selectmen, H. A. Gillilan as road commissioner, Walter B. Harvey as school director, and filling the other offices, the bidding for taxes was made exciting by the fact that Curt Harvey bid off the collection of taxes for Geo. F. Winch and that the town was so nearly divided as to whether they would accept Geo. Winch as substitute for Curt Harvey or not.

Geo. Winch was finally accepted as collector of taxes and was made constable. Chas. Choate showed the reason why the town expense appeared to be so why the town expense appeared to be so because quite a number of bills had been paid which had been running for years. Because of the indebtedness and that about \$1400 must be paid on the proposed cut under the railroad at McIndoe the town voted to raise \$125 on a dollar of the grand list. Just before adjournment the town voted emphatically not to allow dancing in the town hall.

GREENSBORO BEND.

Rev. Paroungian of Walden will preach at the Methodist church next Sunday.

Mrs. R. J. Shurtliff is slowly recovering.

The Crusaders, now doing a good work in Stannard, are expected here next week. Mrs. Albert Batten and George Cole are reported as being convalescent.

Hendershot, "the drummer boy" who was reported to give an entertainment Tuesday evening, was unable to be present.

Miss Glenn Graham is at work at Joe Clark's during the illness of Mrs. Clark.

General Agent Buet of Enosburg was in town the first of the week looking after some evaporators, his company having sold out in this section. He represents the Leader evaporator.

Tuesday evening about fifty friends and neighbors dropped suddenly and unexpectedly in to make a merry time at Jim Pope's. Everybody reports an excellent time.

Town meeting passed quietly, the greatest excitement being over road commissioner. Roi Ritchie was elected.

Several of our leading citizens have the Klondike fever and we are expecting to lose them soon.

LUNENBURG.

Artemus Pierce died after a short but very painful illness at his home last Wednesday afternoon. His funeral was held Friday, the remains being taken to Lancaster for burial. Rev. Mr. Danforth of Lancaster officiated. A number of Odd Fellows from Lancaster came over to attend the funeral.

All the school children in town now have a vacation.

Miss Lena Severance has purchased a fine new piano at Lancaster and had it shipped to her home in East St. Johnsbury.

About fifty attended the social at Mrs. King's last Friday evening. Maple sugar was served.

Charles King and family came over from Whitefield to visit his mother Friday.

Miss Emma Buffum of McIndoes is visiting Miss Hanna Dodge.

The woman's club met at Mrs. F. D. Hale's Feb. 22 in the evening. As it was Washington's birthday the programme was appropriate to the day as follows:

Music, piano and violin. A. V. Vance and Mrs. Balch. Sketch of His Life. Mrs. Thomas. Farewell Address. Mrs. Bell. Recollections of Washington and his friends. Miss Barnard.

Music. Mrs. Bishop. Reading poem. Mrs. White. Music, piano solo. Mr. Vance and Mrs. Balch. Mount Vernon. Mrs. Hale.

At the close of the programme the guests were treated to music by Mr. Vance and Mrs. Balch and Dr. Bretling, which was much enjoyed by all.

MCINDOE FALLS.

The Ladies' Aid society met at the vestry last Wednesday.

W. T. Morse of Cabot was the guest of Thomas Martin last week.

Miss Julia Emery, who has been at Somerville, Mass., for the past year has returned home.

Robert Kendall has moved from West Lebanon into one of W. H. Gilchrist's tenements.

Frank Lord has been sick with pneumonia at Granville, Iowa.

Mrs. Daniel Paris of Lyndon was in town last week.

The Academy opened Tuesday with a good number for the spring term.

The electric light company are putting up street lights.

Every one is having an epidemic cold in this vicinity.

The Misses Adine and Jennie Bell of Hardwick spent Sunday with their uncle, A. B. Perry.

There will be a promenade and supper at the Academy hall Thursday evening for the benefit of the poor.

Miss Jean Duncan is visiting friends in Lowell and Boston.

The whist club met at George Payne's Wednesday evening.

Mrs. George Ramsdell of West Miland, N. H., has been visiting her mother, Mrs. William Kimball, and has now gone to her daughter's at Bellows Falls.

Miss Lillian Bishop spent last week with her sister, Mrs. R. H. Hazleton, at Lebanon, N. H.

Mrs. Woodruff is very sick with pneumonia.

The meeting of the Junior Endeavor society will be omitted for a while.

PEACHAM.

Owen Somers and family move soon to Fred Harriman's farm in East Peacham.

Dan Lowell has bought E. D. Palmer's place in East Peacham and moved there last week.

Mrs. T. G. Whitehill of Barre was in town one day last week, the guest of her sister, Mrs. Graham.

The closing concert of Prof. H. H. May's singing school given last week, was very well attended in spite of the stormy week, and much enjoyed by all.

Misses Mae Bolton and Ola Morse have gone to Johnson for two weeks.

Miss Hattie Choate of Danville has been the guest of Mrs. Elsie Merrill this week.

"The Longfellow Evening" last Monday in memory of Longfellow's birthday, was much enjoyed by those who attended. Sketches of his life and writings were read, and songs were rendered by several different persons, all of which were his poems set to music.

C. A. Hutchinson has put a telephone into his house this week, which connects him with the outside world.

The youngest child of E. D. Somers of South Peacham had a very narrow escape one day last week. He was sliding down by the blacksmith shop and was kicked by a horse that was just coming from the shop. Fortunately the horse had no shoes on and the child escaped with a very bad cut on his forehead, and is now doing as well as could be expected.

George Bridgeman and wife of Hardwick are visiting at Plynth Bolton's.

G. A. Stoddard and wife visited friends in Waterford last week.

School commenced at the academy Tuesday with about the usual number of students.

Miss Nellie M. Harvey has gone to St. Johnsbury for a few weeks.

Mrs. Geo. Bigelow, who went to the hospital recently, has had an operation performed and is as comfortable as could be expected.

SOUTH RYEGATE.

James Morrison died Sunday evening. Funeral services were held at the house Wednesday noon, Rev. Irving Todd officiating.

Mrs. John R. McAllister is still quite sick. A consultation of doctors here Saturday pronounced her ailment neuralgia of the stomach. Her sister Hattie has come from Manchester, N. H., to care for her.

Mrs. Chamberlain returned to Newbury Monday after spending a month with her granddaughter, Mrs. H. W. Hibbard.

Messrs. Farguharsen, the brothers Beaton, Goodfellow, Goodine and McCnab have bought out the Blue Mountain Granite Co. for \$3000. They have taken possession of the property and commenced work.

Messrs. Craig and Goodfellow go to Danville Monday to give their magnifying and gramophone entertainment.

Bucklen's Arnica Salve.

The best salve in the world for cuts, bruises, sores, ulcers, salt rheum, fever sores, tetter, chapped hands, chilblains, corns, and all skin eruptions, and positively cures piles, or no pay required. It is guaranteed to give perfect satisfaction or money refunded. Price 25 cents per box. For sale by Flint Bros.

Orleans County.

Recently John Magoon and Eben Bailey of Newport Center cut down a mammoth elm on the wood lot belonging to D. L. Hildreth, which made 24 1/2 cords of block wood.

A letter received by Mrs. Tower of Coventry announces the safe arrival of Rev. and Mrs. Stowell at their home in California. They spent the Sabbath in Deming, New Mexico, and three days of their journey in traversing a desert.

When they arrived in California they found teams at the station to convey them to the parsonage, which had been newly cleaned and made ready for their use by their kind parishioners. They many friends in Vermont will be glad to learn that they had a prosperous journey.

A meeting of the Orleans County Medical society was held at the Newport House, Monday afternoon. Addresses were made on: Auto-Intoxication, by Dr. J. C. Rutherford; Insanity, by Dr. C. L. Erwin; Fibrous Growth of Uterus, by Dr. R. B. Skinner; Laceration of Cervix and Perineum, by Dr. J. F. Wright.

John Crowley of Albany died suddenly last week Thursday. He had attended the entertainment that evening and left the hall to get his team to go home, when outside the door he fell forward into the snow and was dead before anyone reached him. His family knew that he had a serious heart trouble yet he had been as well as usual up to the time of his death. Mr. Crowley was born in Albany and had always lived here. He was a genial man, a good neighbor, a kind husband and father and will be greatly missed here. He leaves a wife and five sons who have the sympathy of the community.

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March Merriment.

"Now, Bessie, here's the medicine, and here's the dime papa left to pay for you taking it."

"All right, mamma. If you take it and don't tell, I'll give you half."

The Parson—"An' to tink ob de New Jerusalem wil de streets paved wit gold!" The Deacon—"An' yit there ain't de same rush dere as dey is to de Klondike."—[Puck.]

"Do you think a woman could stand the wear and tear of being President of the United States?" "Of course; if she had all she wanted to wear she wouldn't care anything about the tear."—[Detroit Free Press.]

Clearwater Cal—"What wuz Nuggit Nuggins arrested for?" Panhandle Pete—"For caravin' concealed weapons, when de sheriff tapped him on de shoulder he wuz 'torn' helpless."—[Puck.]

A—"I'm thinking of dabbling a little money in stocks. What's a good thing to put your money in?" B—"Your inside pocket."—[Fit Bits.]

"Mrs. Struckett affects the antique in her house decoration." "Yes, she told me the other day she was heartbroken because she couldn't get the shades of her ancestors for her parlor windows."—[Truth.]

"Is it true," asked an acquaintance of a girl who had returned from Boston, "that there is an air of culture and educational refinement plainly noticeable in the speech of Boston residents?" "My dear," she replied impressively, "even owls around Boston say 'To whom! instead of 'To whoo!' as in the west!"—[Kansas City Star.]

The fond mother of three children was obliged to remonstrate with her oldest boy because in the children's games he would always take the lead. A few days later, the mother, happening to go into the nursery, saw the two younger children engaged in amateur theatricals. The older boy stood aside with his arms folded, moodily watching them. "We are playing Adam and Eve," said the youngsters. She turned to the silent figure in the corner, about to praise him. "Who are you?" she asked. "God" was the answer.—[Trained Motherhood.]

"If he paints the sky gray and the grass brown, he belongs to the Old School."

"If he paints the sky blue and the grass green, he belongs to the Realistic School."

"If he paints the sky yellow and the grass purple, he is a Colorist."

"If he paints the sky black and the grass red, he is an artist of great decorative talent—great enough to make posters."—[Boston Transcript.]

"You have a wonderful climate," said the English visitor to a New Yorker one balmy day in February. "Really it is like spring here today."

"Yes replied the American, complacently. "We have more spring days in February than we have in spring."—[Harper's Bazar.]

The Bible story of the fall has been often quoted to the discredit of Eve's sex, but Rev. M. Guy Pearce says the devil did not give the apple to the man, but to the woman, because he knew that the man would have eaten it all himself, but that the woman would go halves.

The Jews in Persia are suffering terribly at the hands of the government authorities. The head of every Jew has been ordered to wear a mark, that he may be distinguished from a Mohammedan. The situation is a very grave one.

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